

Meet Robin Schick, first female Mayor of Town of Colonial Beach, Virginia

Mayor Robin Schick has traveled all over the world. Still, there's no place like home.

Born and raised in Colonial Beach, Mayor Robin Schick is a lifelong resident of Westmoreland County. She was named valedictorian of her class at Colonial Beach High School (where she later taught Spanish) and attended Rappahannock Community College (beginning in the 8th grade!) Robin attended college at the University of Virginia, spending her spring breaks volunteering in places like Jamaica and New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Joining the Peace Corps after graduation, Schick lived in Guatemala for two years, where she honed her skills in municipal development, helping to design and build an interactive library complete with books, computers, business equipment, kids corner and interactive space for learning.

Full of Drifter pride, Schick returned to her hometown, establishing an architectural design firm, RMS Design, and starting a family. Robin continued her tradition of community service, joining the Planning Committee, running and being elected to Town Council, serving as Vice Mayor, and ultimately being chosen as Town of Colonial Beach, Virginia's (CBVA) first female mayor.

Over time, Mayor Schick saw connections between her experiences abroad and the rural Northern Neck (NNK). Development was necessary to maintain economic growth, but with a goal to preserve the region's unique heritage, culture, buildings and history. Understanding the distinctive needs of NNK, Schick's firm specializes in residential design, remodels and preservation, and municipal development. Her work has included drafting designs for local projects, such as the Town's Torrey Smith Recreation Park, and she has been involved in revitalization efforts in the Virginia towns of Warsaw, Montross, White Stone and Callao, designing facades and community facilities. This experience enables Robin, as Mayor, to form relationships with municipal governments in the region, connect with community leaders, and foster partnerships and collaborations in which towns collectively face the same challenges and share solutions.

Resiliency is a core value for Mayor Schick, having endured Hurricane Isabel and a catastrophic fire while growing up at her family's marina. The coming together and support of the CBVA community after these devastating events had a major impact on Robin, spawning a life of service missions and community development. She believes her community engagement work with diverse groups of people and cultures serves her well as Mayor of Colonial Beach.

"Small town living gives you a sense of pride and community, where everyone leans on each other and you feel supported by the entire village. But it can be limiting, in that, rural areas can lack diversity. Colonial Beach's ability to embrace diversity has helped us achieve growth that other rural areas haven't. We might not always think alike, but we have the same purpose and come together to attain it," voiced Ms. Schick.

One of the Mayor's goals is to capitalize on Town of Colonial Beach's long and colorful maritime resort history and bring it back to life.